



Northern Great Plains Network

Inventory and Monitoring Monthly Report

February 2006



National I&M Meeting: The 5th NPS National I&M meeting was held the week of February 6. The Northern Great Plains Network presented two posters at the meeting (one by Amy Symstad et al. in regards to the vegetation protocol development and one by Nels Troelstrup et al. on the water quality project). The Network also gave brief presentations on the effort to integrate the I&M Program with the Fire Effects and Exotic Plant Management Team Programs and on the I&M Program image library/photo points. The national meeting emphasized communication and outreach products including brochures, videos, web pages, online databases and maps and other tools. Information on the meeting can be found at: <http://science.nature.nps.gov/im/monitor/Meetings.cfm>

Network I&M Meeting: The annual Northern Great Plains Network meeting was held in Rapid City in early February. As in past years the meeting was held in conjunction with the Fire Effects and Exotic Plant Management Team Programs. All of the presentations from the meeting can be found at:

<http://www1.nature.nps.gov/im/units/ngpn/Pages/Publications/Meetings.htm>.

I&M Program Office: Prior to the annual Network meeting the Network I&M Board approved locating the I&M Program at the South Dakota School of Mines & Technology in Rapid City (contingent on the final terms of the agreement). The I&M Coordinator will work with the General Services Administration and the school's Foundation to develop an agreement to lease a currently vacant office space. If all goes as plan the I&M Program should move into the office in the next couple of months. The long-term plan is for the school's Foundation to build a new office designed for the I&M Program (e.g., with secure parking, a lab, storage area). Under this arrangement the Network (technically, GSA) would enter into a long-term lease with the Foundation.

Current Monitoring Projects: Although the Northern Great Plains Network is still a long ways from formerly implementing a monitoring program, the I&M Program has started a couple of qualitative projects. First, the I&M Program has collected photopoints from most parks in the Network (the images have been taken incidental to other work). At the Network meeting in Rapid City Joel Brumm displayed an example of a 360° photopoint. The I&M Program will continue to build a library of photopoints for all of the parks. A second monitoring project was recently initiated at Fort Union Trading Post NHS. At the request of the park (and with assistance from Mike Oehler at Theodore Roosevelt NP) the I&M Program deployed two time-lapse video cameras to document bank erosion resulting from the ice break-up on the Missouri River.

Post-doc Project: Dr. Bob Gitzen is now duty stationed in Rapid City. Bob is the post-doc hired by the U. of Missouri who will be developing the monitoring plan for the Network. Bob will conduct the project under the oversight of Dr. Josh Millsbaugh of the U. of MO. Bob can be reached at robert_gitzen@partner.nps.gov.